



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

its accuracy cannot be doubted and the author has been more than generous in the citation of authorities. The notes, moreover, make it possible for the student to go more into detail on special points and to find fuller discussion of controverted subjects, such as the attitude of England and of the United States to California before 1846.

The reader may derive from this book a good idea of the international competition which led to the discovery and settlement of California; of the system of administration of a Spanish colony and a Mexican dependency; of the mission and its relation to colonization; of the advent of the Americans and the final conquest of the country by them. The book contains many graphic descriptions of romantic incidents and of the conditions of life in early California. There are quite full characterizations of leading personalities including explorers, royal administrative officers, local officials, missionaries, fur traders and merchants.

Any adverse criticism would apply rather to the plan than the content of the book. The author undertook a somewhat difficult task in writing both for the general reader and the student. The amount of detail condensed into such small compass makes the book rather hard reading for one not already somewhat acquainted with the subject. California history is very interesting, and this book is a suitable one to open up the subject to a careful reader and student.

JAMES R. ROBERTSON.

Berea College.

Ross, Edward A. *The Changing Chinese.* Pp. xvi, 356. Price, \$2.40. New York: Century Company, 1911.

The student of race problems will welcome with enthusiasm this latest contribution to the literature of the subject. In view of the present revolutionary movement in China, nothing could be more opportune than a clear-sighted and scientific interpretation of Chinese characteristics. Professor Ross did not go to China for the purpose of gathering interesting material for a travelogue, but to obtain first-hand information for the verification or disproof of ideas concerning the Chinese which were the result of seven years' residence in California where the Oriental is best observed in America, and after many years of subsequent study of literary sources.

This volume is not primarily a description, though it abounds in descriptive material. It is an interpretation. It explains the Chinese. Superficial observers have attributed China's backward condition to its medieval government, to its antiquated industrial methods, to the static character of its people. Professor Ross assumes that these so-called causes are themselves results that need explanation quite as much as the effects which they have produced. The first chapter is a brilliant pen picture of the most obvious characters of the country and its people. "China is the European Middle Ages made visible—"a state of society . . . which will probably never recur on this planet."

The "Race Fibre" of the Chinese is due to natural selection under a bad

physical environment where the men of low physical resistance were eliminated. The "Race Mind" is not quite so clearly analyzed or explained. In the main its stagnation is not due to sluggishness but to prepossession by certain beliefs—beliefs that are tenaciously held because in a vast population they have been instruments of order, security and a goodly measure of happiness. When the isolation of these beliefs has been broken up the Chinese mind is quick to respond. There is no evidence of intellectual inferiority. No more thoroughgoing interpretation on the basis of the Malthusian doctrine can be found than Professor Ross' fourth chapter on The Struggle for Existence in China. China's social problems are the result of the pressure of population on space and on the means of subsistence.

The industrial future of China is ultimately hopeful because of the vast unexploited material resources, but because of jealousy of the foreigner, dearth of capital, ignorant labor, graft, nepotism and lust for immediate profits without regard for the future, the development will be slower than many have predicted. The chapters on The Grapple with the Opium Evil, The Unbinding of the Women of China, Christianity in China, and The New Education are illuminating discussions of the changes that are taking place with a rapidity undreamed of a decade or two ago. "There is no reason to believe that there is anything in the psychology or history or circumstances of the Chinese to cut them off from the general movement of world thought. Their destiny is that of the white race; that is, to share in and contribute to the progress of planetary culture."

As usual, Professor Ross' facetiousness of expression leads him occasionally into exaggeration, but this after all is scarcely a defect. It makes the book intensely fascinating reading, and, once begun, the reader is loath to lay it down until he has reached the last page.

Whether or not all the generalizations of the author will be substantiated by more intensive observation and future history is of less importance than the contribution he has made to race interpretation on a scientific sociological basis.

J. P. LICHTENBERGER.

University of Pennsylvania.

Spencer, F. H. *Municipal Origins.* Pp. xi, 333. Price 10/6. London: Constable & Co., Limited, 1911.

This important contribution to the history of local government describes the process by which the existing municipal institutions came to be established in England. The industrial revolution rapidly developed urban communities in what had been mainly a rural country and made it necessary to devise new machinery in the place of the inadequate manorial courts, parish vestries, old municipal corporations and quarter sessions. Fundamental changes were made; so fundamental indeed that the modern system "is not a growth: it is a creation." Mr. Spencer has made a systematic study of these changes as they appear in the great mass of private bill legislation of the eighteenth century and the early part of the nineteenth. He describes